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Message Text

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60
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 2330

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: PRI: BUCALOSSI FACTION PLOTS COMEBACK

1. EXECUTIVE OFFICER SPOKE OCTOBER 20 WITH PIERFRANCO FALETTI, PRI GROUP LEADER IN MILAN CITY COUNCIL AND CLOSE ALLY OF PROF. PIETRO BUCALOSSI. BUCALOSSI PROVOKED DISSOLUTION OF LOMBARDY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE (GIUNTA) BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT LARGER ROLE FOR PCI THEREIN (REFTEL. BUCALOSSI'S GROUP WAS DEFEATED, HOWEVER, BOTH IN PRI REGIONAL COUNCIL AND IN VOTE BY MILAN CITY MEMBERSHIP FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO PRI MILAN CITY COMMITTEE. GIUNTA HAS NOW BEEN RECONSTITUTED MUCH AS BEFORE AND COMMUNISTS HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR ROLE (SEPTEL). REASON FOR BUCALOSSI'S DEFEAT WAS DECISION OF PRI MODERATE FACTION, LED BY SENATOR GIOVANNI SPADOLINI AND DEPUTY ANTONIO DEL PENNINO, TO FOLLOW LEAD OF NATIONAL PARTY SECRETARY UGO LA MALFA AND SIDE WITH SMALL LEFTIST ELEMENT. FALETTI DESCRIBED SITUATION AND TOLD WHAT HE AND BUCALOSSI HPE TO DO ABOUT IT.

2. FALETTI SAID LA MALFA HAS BEEN EDGING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO COMMUNISTS AND HAS NOW - OVER PAST WEEKEND IN MILAN - TAKEN POSITION DECIDEDLY FAVORABLE TO THEM. REASON IS HIS DESIRE TO BE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC (IN TWO YEARS), WHICH DEPENDS ON PCI SUPPORT.

3. BUCALOSSI, SAID FALETTI, DIFFERS WITH LA MALFA ON AT
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LEAST TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES. FIRST, BUCALOSSI CONTENDS THAT

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LA MALFA'S CHARGE THAT HE (BUCALOSSI) IS IN CONFLICT
WITH OFFICIAL PRI POSITION IS NONSENSE, SINCE HIS REFUSAL TO
COOPERATE WITH PCI IN NO WAY CONFLICTS WITH PRI PLATFORM
DECIDED AT LAST NATIONAL CONGRESS (IN GENOA, ONE AND A HAFL
YEARS AGO). THUS BUCALOSSI HAS CALLED FOR NEW NATIONAL
CONGRESS TO SETTLE MATTER. SECONDLY, SAID FALETTI, LA MALFA
HAS WRITTEN OFF SOCIALISTS AND BUCALOSSI HASN'T. LATTER
FEELS PSI UNDER CRAXI IS CHANGING FOR BETTER AND HIS POLICY
IS ONE OF COLLABORATION WITH SOCIALISTS.

4. FALETTI SAID HE AND BUCALOSSI HAVE NOT ACCEPTED NEW
SITUATION WITHIN PRI AND FEEL THEY CAN TURN TABLES IN MILAN
AND DEAL LA MALFA IMPORTANT DEFEAT. THEIR GROUP-WHICH GOT
RESPECTABLE 44 PERCENT OF CITY MEMBERSHIP VOTE IN ELECTION FOR
WHICH FALETTI SAYS IT WAS UNPREPARED- PLANS TO SPRING NEW
ELECTION ON RIVALS IN IMPORTANT SECTION OF MILAN AND USE FAVORABLE
RESULTS TO PRESS FOR BROADER ELECTIONS. (SETION IS CATTANEO,
ONE OF FIVE AREAS INTO WHICH PRI DIVIDES MILAN AND OF WHICH
FALETTI IS SECRETARY. CATTANEO, SAID FALETTI, IS MOST IMPORT-
ANT PRI SECTION IN ITALY, WITH 1700 OF MILAN'S 2600 CARD-
CARRYING REPUBLICANS. FALETTI STRESSED THAT POSSIBILITY
OF NEW ELECTIONS IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.) IF BUCALOSSI'S
GROUP WON IN CATTANEO, IT WOULD PRESS FOR NEW PRI MILAN CITY
COMMITTEE ELECTIONS, IN WHICH IT WOULD EXPECT TO PREVAIL AS
WELL.

5. REPERCUSSIONS OF SUCH VICTORY BY BUCALOSSI FORCES, SAID
FALETTI, WOULD GO BEYOND CHANGE IN LOMBARDY REGIONAL GIUNTA.
(HE WAS PRESUMABLY PREDICTING PRI PULLOUT FROM "OPEN" GIUNTA
ONCE BUCALOSSI BACK IN CONTROL.) BUCALOSSI WIN, HE SAID,
WOULD ALSO GREATLY WEAKEN LJ MALFA, SINCE LA MALFA
LEADERSHIP AT MOMENT RESTS IN LARGE PART ON HIS HAVING
WHIPPED BUCALOSSI.FINA

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